

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2004

The meeting of the Maryland Commission on Human Relations was called to order on Tuesday, March 8, 2004 at 10:15 a.m.

Present Thomas Owen, Charles Cresswell, John Hermina, Peter Lee and Pamela Scarbro.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as written.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT Commissioners received copies of the Chairperson's Report (See attached). Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that Financial Disclosure instructions and notices were in their folders. The disclosures should be completed, notarized and mailed to the State Ethics Commission in the self-addressed, stamped envelope that has been provided.

Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that he attended the Budget Hearing before the Senate. Chairperson Owen did not attend the House Hearing because of snow. Both hearings went very well.

Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that the second presentation regarding immigrant affairs would be held today. Dr. Timothy Dunn, Associate Professor of Sociology from Salisbury University is the speaker.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation
Senate Bill 735

Commissioners received copies of Senate Bill 735 (See attached). The General Counsel informed Commissioners that MCHR received a call from an individual who is interested in Senate Bill 735. This bill would require landlords and management companies of condo associations to install visual smoke detectors in the units of persons who are deaf or hearing impaired. This bill would also mandate the number of visual smoke detectors in each unit. This bill amends the public safety code, Section 9102 and Section 14 that deal with evacuation and alarms.

The individual who has been calling would like to know if the Commission would support this bill. Chairperson Owen recommended that MCHR not support this bill, but let it go forward and see what happens. Commissioners voted 3-2 not to support.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Commissioners received copies of the Executive Director's Report (See attached). The Executive Director informed Commissioners that both budget hearings were held.

Senate Bill 518

The Executive Director informed Commissioners that the hearing for Senate Bill 518 would be held on Thursday, March 11, 2005. This bill gives MCHR authority to receive grants and other monies.

Community
Outreach/Education
Unit

Commissioners received copies of the Community Outreach/Education Unit's Report (See attached).

Hate Crimes Bill

The Public Affairs Coordinator informed Commissioners that the Hate Crimes bill would be heard next week. The Public Affairs Coordinator will enter MCHR's support for this bill.

Neighborhood
Beat

The Public Affairs Coordinator informed Commissioners that Chairperson Owen and the Executive Director would be appearing on a cable television program hosted by Bill Kladky. The name of the program is Neighborhood Beat and is aired on many television stations throughout the state.

Fair Housing
Event

The Public Affairs Coordinator informed Commissioners that there would be a Fair Housing event on Friday, April 8, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. The event is free and would take place at Chesapeake College on the Eastern Shore. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Flyers will be emailed to Commissioners. Fair Housing Awards will also be presented.

Next Month's
Speaker

The Public Affairs Coordinator informed Commissioners that Mr. Shu-Ping Chan, of the Montgomery County Executive Office, Community Outreach will be the guest speaker at the April meeting.

**DEPUTY
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

EEOC Contract

Commissioners received copies of the Deputy Director's Report (See attached).

The Deputy Director informed Commissioners that MCHR received the EEOC contract, which was slightly less than what MCHR received last year. There is a possibility that MCHR could get an upward modification to the EEOC contract.

HUD Contract

MCHR received unofficial information regarding the HUD contract and it is not positive. MCHR has not yet received the HUD contract.

**ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Commissioners received copies of the Assistant Director's Report (See attached).

Information
Technology Unit

The Information Technology Manager informed Commissioners that MCHR's firewall has been replaced.

**GENERAL
COUNSEL'S
REPORT**

House Bill 828

Commissioners received copies of the General Counsel's Report (See attached).

The General Counsel informed Commissioners that there is a bill which has been submitted by a Delegate concerning the definition of employers in which they want to exclude country clubs from the private club exemption in Article 49B. There are some technical problems with this bill. MCHR submitted recommendations. Country clubs were added to the bill. There are still technical problems because country clubs were not defined in the bill.

Remedies Bill

The General Counsel informed Commissioners that MCHR's legislative liaison stated that there is some discussion going on regarding improving remedies.

Community
Outreach/
Education Unit

Chairperson Owen informed Commissioners that he spoke to the Executive Director and requested that he and agency senior staff need to meet to discuss how MCHR will continue the duties and responsibilities of the Community Outreach/Education Unit.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Timothy Dunn
Salisbury University

The Public Affairs Coordinator introduced the guest speaker Dr. Timothy Dunn. Dr. Dunn has been studying Latino immigration on the Eastern Shore since 1998. Some excerpts from Dr. Dunn's presentation are as follows: there are 18 different language groups in Wicomico County School System; the population growth in the eight counties was a 136% increase, this increase is almost all immigrant (See attached Changing Face of Delmarva).

Chairperson Owen requested a hard copy of Dr. Dunn's presentation. MCHR has downloaded the presentation. All Commissioners will receive a copy.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Barbara Wilson